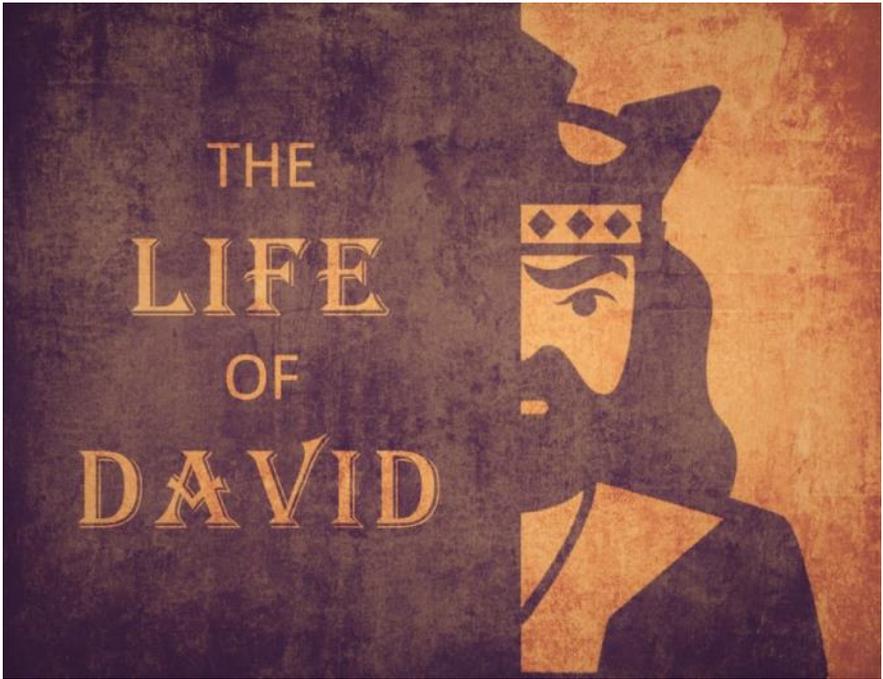




Ascension PCA

May 9, 2021



A community of worshipping, maturing,
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father,
by the power of His Spirit,
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.

A word about our liturgy

The elements and sequence that make up our worship service (the liturgy) is the way we tell ourselves, one another, and all in this place, the grand story of the Triune God: the story of God pursuing a people despite their wanderings and forgetfulness, and shaping them into His people for His glory.



QUIETING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. **Jeremiah 17:12***

As overwhelming as our trials can be,
as enveloping as the darkness appears,
as deep as the floodwaters grow,
we can find solace of heart in knowing
our souls are safe in a place
bigger, broader, deeper than any distress.
Our place of safety is no refugee tent
thrown together last second.
The Triune Godhead is not scrambling
to keep us covered.
Our security has been established in the heavens
from the very beginning,
and it will be standing there,
keeping us sound in Christ at the end,
and forevermore.

~ Jared Wilson

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*We gather at the invitation of God through His Word.
He speaks first, revealing Himself to us,
and we respond with one voice in joy and thanksgiving!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 86:3–12

M: Be gracious to us, O Lord,
for to You do we cry all the day.
Gladden the soul of Your servant,
for to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

P: **For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love
to all who call upon You.**

M: Give ear, O LORD, to our prayer;
listen to our pleas for grace.
In the day of our trouble we call upon You,
for You answer us.

P: **There is none like You among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like Yours.
All the nations You have made shall come
and worship before You, O Lord,
and shall glorify Your Name.**

**For You are great and do wondrous things;
You alone are God.**

**Teach us Your way, O LORD,
that we may walk in Your truth;
unite our hearts to fear Your Name.**

**We give thanks to You, O Lord our God,
with our whole heart,
and we will glorify Your Name together.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

**O worship the King,
all glorious above,
And gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor,
and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might,
ineffable love!
While angels delight
To hymn Thee above.
Thy mercies how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)
Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737–1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come As You Are

**Come out of sadness,
From wherever you've been;
Come, broken hearted,
Let rescue begin;
Come find your mercy,
Oh sinner come kneel.
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

*So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

**There's hope for the hopeless,
And all those who've strayed;
Come sit at the table,
Come taste the grace.**

**There's rest for the weary,
A rest that endures;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't cure.**

*So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

...

***Come as you are,
Fall in his arms,
Come as you are.***

**There's joy for the morning,
Oh sinner be still,
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

***So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.***

***Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Come as you are,
Come as you are,
Come as you are.***

Words and music by Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher
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worshiptogether.com songs (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

GOD CLEANSSES US

*We gather each week as sinners in constant need of His mercy.
The corporate confession of sin acknowledges this
and invites honest expression before God.
However, God isn't silent as we cry out to Him —
He assures us that His grace is bigger than our sin.
God's forgiveness is for all those who humble themselves
before Him in Christ Jesus.*

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:19-34

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.'

³¹ I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel."

³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³ I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most gracious and most merciful God,
we confess to You
that time after time we have entered
Your presence with countless prayers,
but with hearts that have been closed
to Your grace.**

**We have lifted our hands to You in praise,
but our feet have still walked
in the ways of evil.**

**We have rehearsed Your commandments,
but have refused to see Your face
in the needs of our neighbor.**

**Forgive, O Lord. Grant us the cleansing
that comes through Jesus, the Lamb of God.
And renew us by Your Spirit and Your Word
that we might walk in that newness of life
that is ours.
In Jesus we pray, Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*In these moments, we confess our personal sins to God
so that we may take hold of the forgiveness
won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

adapted from Ephesians 2

M: In the name of Christ and by the authority of His Word, I declare to you that God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved you, even when you were dead in your transgressions, has made you alive together with Christ and raised you up with Him, and has seated you with Him in the heavenly places. Your sins are forgiven. Amen.

M: May the peace of God be with you.

P: And also with you!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

What Wondrous Love Is This

**What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great "I AM",
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

**And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Holy Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a crucial means of growing and comforting God's people and awakening people to new faith in Jesus.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

1 Samuel 17:55–58; 18:5–29

⁵⁵ As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

⁵⁶ And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is."

⁵⁷ And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶ As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

"Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands."

⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?"

⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.

...

¹⁰ The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. ¹¹ And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

¹² Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. ¹³ So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴ And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. ¹⁵ And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." ¹⁸ And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"

¹⁹ But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

²⁰ Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. ²¹ Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." ²² And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'" ²³ And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" ²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." ²⁵ Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'"

...

Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.²⁶ And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired,²⁷ David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife.²⁸ But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,²⁹ Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"The Rival"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Great God

**O great God of highest heav'n,
Occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
Conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,
Had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
Had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life,
Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
Glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is a meal for the family of God, given by Jesus the night before His death to be celebrated until His return. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of King, and spiritually nourishes us for today as we eat and drink in faith.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

from Hebrews 9 & 10

M: For this reason Christ is the mediator
of a new covenant,
that those who are called may receive
the promised eternal inheritance —
now that He has died as a ransom to set them free.

P: **Therefore, since we have confidence to enter
the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
by a new and living way opened for us
through the curtain, that is, His body,
and since we have a great priest
over the house of God,
let us draw near to God with a sincere heart
in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us
from a guilty conscience
and having our bodies washed with pure water.
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

PRAYER | MEDITATION

GOD SENDS US

*We end by receiving God's promises to us as His people.
He will be with us as we serve Him in this world,
to the end of all time.*

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

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